

# MARCO NEWSLETTER



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Radio Council, Limited.

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## It's Back to 3.906

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Two weeks of trying to use the new 75 meters frequency (3.868) was enough, or perhaps it should be said that two weeks of trying was too many! It was horrendous! How a frequency could sound so good for a month or so when the various MARCO stations were monitoring, then become so very crowded after being adopted as net frequency is unexplainable. None of those who listened prior to the decision to move there (3.868 MHz) heard the county hunters who were on 3.865. It was exactly like 3.906 where the Century Club group is 2 or 3 kc's below. And how all of the monitoring stations missed hearing the break-away group from 3.897, can't be explained either.

Anyway, it took only two weeks of frustration for a change. The poor results being obtained since the move was being discussed on the morning of November 29th during the Grand Rounds Net (which by the way was one of the best MARCO nets in ages in terms of participation). After hearing the complaints of Ira, W3HEF and others, President Fred, KØFS declared by presidential edict that the MARCO 75 meter net, operating weekdays will immediately return to the old frequency of 3.906 MHz.

The other net that was changed on November 15th, has fallen into bad times also. This was the Wednesday and Sunday evening net that had been struggling on 40 meters (7.239 MHz). It was moved to 20 meters, but as of this writing, has been unsuccessful inasmuch as the 20 meter band has been dead at the scheduled hour. Co-Net control stations, K6KK, and WA3TVG have been unable to communicate, and have had no success in hearing any other MARCO stations. As a result of this, effective with the delivery of this Newsletter, both 20 meters and 40 meters will be listed as locations for this net. If the 20 meters band is open, look for the net there; if 20 meters is dead, look for MARCO on 7.239 MHz.

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by

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### Day Off

As I passed through the den about two weeks ago, I saw my wife and son watching a movie on cable, "Ferris Beuler's Day Off". It must have been a comedy, because they were sort of almost laughing, a little bit. Well, I guess I could title this "Fred Simowitz' Day Off". It's Thanksgiving, and the first time in months that I haven't had to go to work, at all. Not even to make rounds on a single patient. The neurology business around here has been as active as a paroxysmal EEG. Hence, you haven't heard me on the nets much, and I didn't write this column for the last issue of the Newsletter. So, I sit down to write it now, though what I'd really rather be doing is diddling around with 10 meters; I hear it's opening up again -- but that'll have to wait.

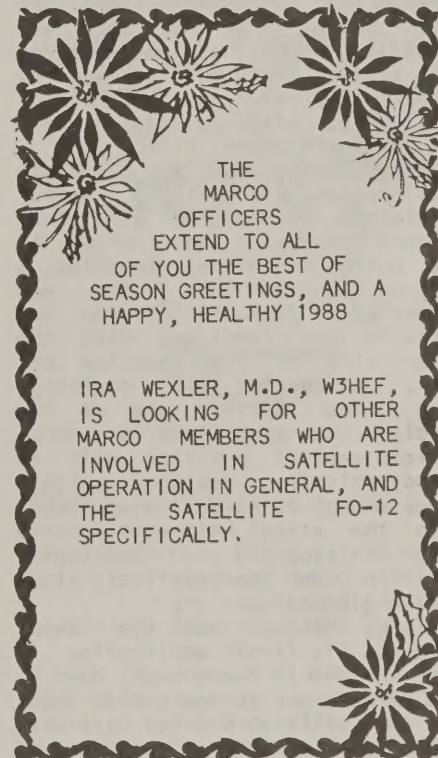
As this is Thanksgiving, and as the article probably will appear in print around Christmas or New Year's, I'll just relate an incident for your unbound reading enjoyment, and at the same time give Ed enough stuff to fill the space.

### Snake In the Shack

Hey, I don't know if this will strike you folks as tragic or funny, but I pass it along. It is a true story.

A couple of weeks ago we had some painting done in our "lower level" (ie, finished basement). The place smeled of paint fumes, so we opened the windows to let it air out, and kept them open for a day or two. Now, my shack is in the basement. It has two well windows that let in enough light so that I can tell whether it's night or day, but not much else (I'm not as blessed as our colleague, W3HEF, whose second floor operating

(Continued on Page 4)



THE  
MARCO  
OFFICERS  
EXTEND TO ALL  
OF YOU THE BEST OF  
SEASON GREETINGS, AND A  
HAPPY, HEALTHY 1988

IRA WEXLER, M.D., W3HEF,  
IS LOOKING FOR OTHER  
MARCO MEMBERS WHO ARE  
INVOLVED IN SATELLITE  
OPERATION IN GENERAL, AND  
THE SATELLITE FO-12  
SPECIFICALLY.

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### TALKING WITH YOUR FINGERS

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(For the RTTY, AMTOR, and PACKET enthusiasts among the ranks of the MARCO members, we dedicate this column to their best interests. We must however have input from those of you who are using these digital modes. Send your articles, reports, etc., to the MARCO Newsletter, Box 73's, Acme PA., 15610.)

For those of you who read the last volume of "Talking with your fingers, and wondered what "VTOOPIES" were (reference the message from K2UK and reprinted in that column), don't be disappointed if you too don't know what it refers to. The author of the message questioned the word, and after he was sent the original message, decided that it was one of those .003% errors that crop up in Packet messages.

(Continued on Page 5)



The following article is another of the Antenna Workshop Series, that was presented on the 40 Meters Sunday evening MARCO nets during the period of May, 1981 and July, 1983, by the late John Haerle, WB511R. This paper was presented on December 19, 1982.

# THE ZEPP ANTENNA

Actually, there is probably not a real, original "Zepp" antenna in use today, unless you want to consider an upside-down Zepp the real thing. The real Zepp was actually used on the heavier-than-air balloon known as the Zeppelin. However, the balun, or the "balloon" as it is so often miscalled, did not originate there. HI!

The antenna for the Zeppelin consisted of, basically, a quarter wavelength of parallel wire line, dropped down below the airship. At the bottom end of this feedline, a half-wavelength of wire was connected to just one of the two wires in the feedline, with the other side of the feedline left open, unconnected to anything. Also, the bottom end of the feedline was stabilized in a more-or-less vertical position with an aerodynamically designed weight, heavy enough to hold it down there, with the actual half-wave antenna wire trailing in a horizontal position under the relatively slow-moving aircraft.

This, then, was the "Zepp" antenna. Its first application in the ham world was brought down to the ground and turned upside down. It was still an end-fed half-wave antenna, with a quarter-wave parallel wire feedline. Inevitably though, this parallel wire feedline became known as a "Zepp" feeder. Thereafter, many varieties of antennas using this type of feed became known as "Zepp" antennas, divided largely into "end-fed" Zepps, or "center-fed" Zepps, but also including "off-center-fed" Zepps, "Zepp-fed Windoms", and so on. As a matter of fact, you can find a very different application of the term "Zepp" in the new English book, "HF Antennas For All Locations", by L.A. Moxon, G6XN. This is, by the way, a Radio Society of Great Britain publication, and, as always, is very good. In this book, on Page 192, you will find specialized Zepp feeds for directional antennas. In the Index of the book, you will also find four other "Zepp" references, none resembling the basic Zepp.

But let's go back to that first upside-down, end-fed Zepp. The earliest reference to it that I can find is in the 10th Edition of what is now the 22nd Edition of Bill

Orr's "Radio Handbook". The 10th Edition, though, came out in 1946 and, at that time, was published by Woodrow Smith and other members of a group known as "Editors and Engineers". This handsome hard-bound volume was available, all 704 pages of it, for the princely sum of \$2.25 ---- but wait! ---- already inflation was beginning to rear its ugly head. There was a sticker over the original price raising it to \$2.50, or \$2.75, delivered anywhere in the U.S.A., which ought ring a bell about today's postal rates -- and, of course, today's 22nd edition of the "Radio Handbook" sells for \$34.95. It is 30% larger, which, on a pro-rata basis, would have brought the 10th Edition up to \$3.25.

Let's look, then, at the land-based end-fed Zepp as described in the 10th edition.

It says, "the Zepp antenna system is easy to tune up and can be used on several bands by merely retuning the feeders ..... where space is limited and where operation on more than just one band is desired, the Zepp has some decided advantages."

As I said before, the authentic Zepp feeder is a quarter-length. This is what you get when you fold one half of a full-wave antenna back on itself to form the parallel wire feedline. Picture, then, this quarter wavelength of parallel line oriented vertically. Now, connect one end of one half wavelength of horizontal wire to one side of the top end of the parallel line feedline. The other side of the top end of the feedline is not connected to anything. The two sides of this feedline at the bottom are connected to a coil, which is used to couple the antenna to the transmitter, and a variable capacitor is placed in one side of the feedline to tune out the inductive reactance introduced by the coil. The net objective of this arrangement is to make the total electrical length of the feedline an exact half wavelength. Remember now, the feedline is actually only a quarter wavelength, but, from the point where one end is connected to the antenna, down through the coupling coil and capacitor, and back up to the open end at the top, the total electrical length should be a half wavelength, or equal, electrically, to the other half wavelength of the actual antenna.

Now, I want to emphasize that, up to this point, I have been giving you historical information on the original Zepp, to lay some groundwork for more modern and practical applications of the basic idea.

First, although in the minority there are still some end-fed Zepps, somewhat as described here, mainly for convenience where the wire must

must be fed at the end, instead of in the middle. I warn you though, the center-fed version is more desirable, wherever possible.

Most of the problems with the end-fed Zepp stem from the fact that the half wave flat-top is fed at a high voltage point. This makes it very difficult to balance the currents on the feedline because voltages at the top end of the feedline cannot be equal. Obviously the open side at the top of the feedline will be at a higher voltage potential than the other side, which is connected to the flat-top. Now, parallel wire feedline, in which the currents are equal and opposite, will not radiate, because of complete cancellation. Since this is not really possible with end-fed RFL in the shack is more the rule than the exception. This can be minimized by careful tuning and a good ground system ..... plus sticking to one band and, pretty close to one frequency.

However, there are many advantages to be realized with some kind of balanced antenna, using so-called "Zepp" feeders.

Getting into balanced antennas, let's look again in the 1946 "Radio Handbook", which says: "A current fed doublet with spaced feeders, sometimes erroneously called a center-fed Zepp, is an inherently balanced system. If the two legs of the radiator are exactly equal electrically, and there will be no radiation from the feeders regardless of what frequency the system is operated on....the system can be successfully operated on almost any frequency, if the system as a whole can be resonated to the operating frequency".

Incidentally, it is interesting to browse through this 1946 handbook and find no mention of coax or coax connectors as we know them today. All feedlines were, largely, single-wire or two wire, with the latter being divided into tuned or untuned lines.

A couple of very primitive rotary beams are described, using parallel wire feedlines. The word Yagi is never mentioned and there is brief mention of a kind of coax which apparently had considerable loss, since only the shortest runs were recommended, mainly used to allow the beam to rotate, and then matched into balanced open wire line the rest of the way.

So much for history. Now, let's look at the most popular antenna which, today, uses the name Zepp: The standard modern center-fed Zepp in its basic configuration, is a one half wavelength center fed dipole. It can be either a flat-top or an inverted vee. The feedline can be 300, 450, or 600 ohm balanced line and is basically one quarter wavelength or a multiple of



that, at the lowest frequency of operation. For maximum flexibility and ease of tuning, the transmatch should use the "T" type of circuit. There are several variations of this basic circuit. One is Lew McCoy's "Ultimate Transmatch", with one section of a two gang variable capacitor appearing from the transmitter input terminal to ground. This is supposed to provide appreciable harmonic attenuation, and, depending on the nature of the antenna impedance it encounters, it may provide harmonic attenuation on the order of 20 to 25 db. When facing other load conditions though, harmonic attenuation may be 5 db or less. However, I feel that there is too much fuss over this point. We should stop and remember that we are looking for an antenna matching device, not a low-pass filter. therefore, any harmonic attenuation at all is a bonus .... and modern rigs with a pi network are already clean enough, if operated properly. I have built both the plain "T" and the Ultimate Transmatch. Either one will do a good job. I have also built Doug DeMaw's SPC version. This is another variation of the "T" match, in which the two-gang variable capacitor is used on the antenna input side of the transmatch. Here, the second half of this capacitor appears in parallel with the shunt coil. I believe this will attenuate harmonics more effectively across a wider range of impedances, but again, I have found that all three variations work well, and I am now back to the plain T. The things that are of real importance in this transmatch are (1) it has nice, wide-spaced variable capacitors, to minimize the possibility of arcing, (2) it has a continuously variable inductor, and (3) it has high quality, vernier controls to facilitate tuning, logging and resettability.

Now, we have a half-wave dipole, balanced feedline and a good transmatch, preferably with a roller inductor, so we have a complete antenna system. Let's make this dipole 125 feet long and see what a wonderfully versatile and efficient antenna we have:

(1) On the 80 meter band, we have a half-wave dipole, with very low-loss feedline, which will show your radio 50 ohms resistive, at any frequency across the considerable width of this entire band ..... and what is important is the fact that it will do it at efficiencies upward of 95%.

(2) On the 40 meter band, this versatile antenna now becomes two half-waves in phase, providing just under 2 db gain. Again, 50 ohms, resistive, can be presented to the rig on all 40 meter frequencies, at high efficiency ..... and where bandwidth on 80 meters is about 90

degrees off either side of the dipole, bandwidth here is about 60 degrees. To realize the ideal pattern, of course, the antenna must be  $1/2$  wavelength or more above ground and horizontal all the way. Lower altitude and/or the inverted vee configuration, will modify this pattern somewhat.

(3) One of the most important features of this 125 foot dipole is that, by happy coincidence, on the new 30 meter band, it becomes what is popularly known as the "Extended Double Zepp". Let's see what it looks like on 30 meters: First, by definition, each half of an extended double zepp should be approximately  $5/8$  wavelength, or .625 wavelength. Next, a wavelength in the middle of the 30 meter band, measured at the center frequency of 10.125 MHz, is about 97 feet. So .625 X 97 is about 60.6 feet for each half of the dipole, for a total length of just over 121 feet. Actually, most texts recommend a little more than the  $5/8$  wavelength figure, with the multiplier being .64 wavelength for each half of the dipole. This comes out to just under 125 feet so our 80 meter dipole is just right. This allows for 49 foot half wave sections at each end of the dipole, and the 27 foot piece left in the middle does several things:

(a) It separates the two dipoles and allows them to radiate in phase, but independently of the undesired mutual coupling effects found with two half waves close together.

(b) The center 27 foot section, is out of phase with the two outer half-waves.

(c) The center section is a relatively low current portion, radiating very little and allowing the two half waves in phase to combine for a broadside gain of 3 db, with some minor lobes at acute angles to the axis of the antenna. This then, for 30 meters, is the extended double zepp.

(4) This antenna will also tune with equal ease and efficiency on 20, 15, and 10 meters. The only catch here is that the pattern will be a cloverleaf on 20, with those lobes moving around to fire more off the ends of the antenna as you move on up through 15 and 10 meters. As I've said before, though, you can have a lot of fun on those bands as an added bonus. I've worked lots of DX up there with this antenna.

Finally, I would like to go back and compare this antenna, on 30 meters with the "Trilinear" or 3 element collinear, which I described recently:

(1) First, and most importantly, the gain is the same if, the Trilinear works as well as it

can .... 3 db in both cases.

- (2) The extended double zepp is smaller, being 125, compared to 138 for the Trilinear.
- (3) The Zepp is a single wire, with less weight and windloading.
- (4) The Zepp works all the other bands as well, if not better.



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 THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN  
 by  
 Fredric M Simowitz, M.D.,KOFs  
 (Continued from Page 1)  
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position allows him a pastoral view of Maryland's finest woodlands). Anyway, I came down into the shack (which also serves as a study) on that particular evening to do some reading. Since the windows were open, I found it too cold to enjoy reading, so I flipped on the transceiver just to see what bands were active. I got no power. I recalled that I had vacuumed in the shack/study a few days earlier, and had probably pulled out the power cords to clean behind the operating console, and forgot to plug them back in. So I rolled the console (an old EEG cabinet) forward, and beheld the maze of power cords, transmission lines and speaker wires which we all try to hide. Something moved! Not just moved, like maybe I'd pulled on it, but slithered! It looked like a section of RG 59U, going from my TU to my RTTY monitor. It was black like RG 59U, and long like RG 59U, but it was too thick for RG 59U; and it was striped (concentric, maroon-reddish stripes, about 5 mm wide, and spaced every centimeter or so--rather attractive, actually). I concentrated, and was able to access my own memory--which these days holds only about 64K. I mentally entered wire, commercial, and waited for my mind's next screen, which came up quicker than I anticipated, displaying "Belden and Tandt", informing me that these are the two types of wire I use in my shack. I then entered color (return), and my mind's screen showed "black.....all black.....no stripes.....(e) exit, (n) next screen". The worst of my unspoken fears had been realized; could it be an s-n-a-k-e? I looked at the floor again. Yep, it sure was. I judged it to be about 100 feet long, weighing no less than 200 pounds.

In 1946, at age 9, I started attending summer camp. I probably would have started when I was 6, but there was a war on, and kid's summer camps were closed. From 1946

until 1954 I attended one summer camp or another each year, without fail, as a camper. From 1955 until 1959 I was employed by a summer camp as counsellor, driver, supply officer, and waiter, at various times. During those 13 years I was repeatedly tutored in "Nature Lore", which included the recognition and handling of snakes. I have stalked, captured, bagged, held and/or wisely avoided every type of snake indigenous to the mountains of Upper New York State, Georgia and North Carolina, including some bad dudes like rattlers, copperheads and water moccasins. I suppose that, at one time, there were very few people who knew more about snakes than I.

It all comes back, like riding a bicycle, right? Wrong! I didn't know whether to holler, to try to stomp him or to run out and catch a little frog to use as bait to lure him back out if the window he must have come in. If I hollered Beverly would hear me, and ask me what's wrong. I'd tell her--I never lie to my wife--and the next dawn would bring the Bekins truck to the front door. This would be fiscally unwise, since real estate prices are somewhat depressed, compared to what they were a year and a half ago when we bought the house; if I stomped on the snake I'd probably yank a dozen coaxes out of their PL-259's, and have to spend half a day resoldering them; and frogs are hard to find in October.

Slowly, the teachings of Camp Highland Lake, Camp Oxford and Camp Blue Star returned. (1) Confine the Beast: I closed the door as I rushed out of the shack/study (if my corridor were 100 meters long, I'd have covered the distance in about 9.2 seconds--eat your heart out Carl Lewis). (2) Trap the Beast: I went to my garage, procured a broomstick (by sawing off one of Beverly's best broom heads), and made a loop of rope, anchored on one end of the stick. I grabbed an empty brown grocery bag. Returned to the room. He hadn't moved. I determined which end was the head (no easy feat with a mile or two of black wire to confuse you). (I slowly slid the loop of rope around his head; lucky me, he didn't move. (3) Ensnare the Beast: I quickly drew the rope taut. GOT

HIM! I lifted the stick, pulling the ensnared beast with it. He wrapped his tail around a wire (probably thought it was his mother) at the same time that I thought I'd better not pull too tight or I'd choke the beast (Camp Highland Lake, Oxford and Blue Star did not condone murder of our reptilian comrades). The end result was that his tail released at the same time as his head, and, for about 0.5 seconds he experienced the unique thrill of free fall, before landing, totally free of all encumbrances, on my left shoulder.

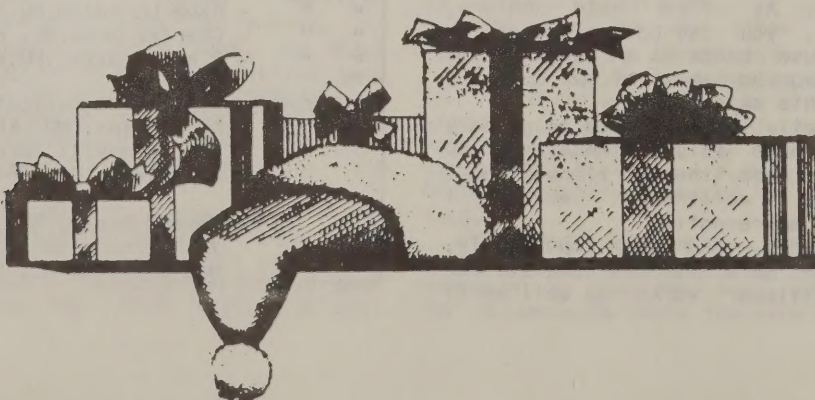
At that time the temperature at night in St. Louis was running in the low 40's; since the windows had been open for a day or two, it probably was not much warmer than that in the shack/study/reptile house. Years of Nature Lore had taught me that "cold blooded" animals move slower in cold weather. So I guess it shouldn't have come as a surprise that the bete sangfroid just sat there on my shoulder for the millisecond that it took me to jump back, utter an expletive about human excrement, and throw my torso around, all in one, graceful, fluid movement (eat your heart out with that one, Mikhail Baryshnikov).

The beast fell to the floor, then started to slowly creep away. Not trusting my snakestick, I grabbed a set of bottle tongs (the kind you use to handle a sterilized baby bottle, or, if so inclined, to serve spaghetti), leaned over, and clasped him behind the head again, this time a little more forcefully. With my other hand, I picked the paper grocery bag and proceeded to (4) Bag the Beast.

The rest was almost anticlimatic. I carried the bag, beast securely inside, quietly up the stairs, through the foyer, the breakfast room, the kitchen, and out the back door. If Beverly had seen me I was taking out the trash, but, fortunately, "Ferris Beuler's Day Off" was on cable, and she and Mark were watching it (see above).

I noted that my neighbor's lights were off, a sure sign that he and his family were out for the evening. My neighbor isn't a ham, but he does wood work, and his shop is located in his basement. I walked around to the back of his house, and located the window well which served his workshop. I unfurled the top of the grocery bag, backed up about three feet, extended my arms as far as they would go; and emptied the contents of the bag into his window well. I mean, why shouldn't the poor little snake have some sort of protection from the on-coming winter? Besides, my neighbor is planning to paint his workshop next week.

Happy Holiday Season to all. 73







Do you remember the article by Don Ore that was originally printed in the MARCO Journal in 1978, and reprinted in this Newsletter in the July-August issue? Well, the latest issue of the W5YI report has a similar article, which deals with digital communication and the things to come in the future.

An article by Stephen Weinstein, Ph.D. of Bell Communications Research entitled "Telecommunications in the Coming Decades" that appeared in the IEEE Spectrum magazine is an example. He says that all communications will be digital - ones and zeros. Telephones will have accompanying video displays that can even list the names of several waiting callers with brief messages without interrupting the main ongoing conversation. Fiber-optic cabling will extend into the home and provide many services on a general purpose lightwave network.. replacing existing telephone and cable TV wiring as the conduit of high definition video entertainment ordinary telephone and many two way services. "Video on demand" will be possible. Broadcast entertainment will emphasize personal choice. Electronically accessed video libraries will become commonplace. Viewers will be able to call up specific background material on an athlete inset in a TV screen window during a sports event. Communication between people anywhere, anytime will be possible using intelligent, broadband light-wave networks.

Even more mind boggling is the excerpts in this same W5YI Report from an article in the "Mensa Bulletin" by Sir Clive Sinclair (British inventor of the \$150 Sinclair computer). The article, entitled "Inventing the Future" goes on to say "Only through AI, artificial intelligence .. machine effort rather than human effort .. can we hope to lower costs and continue our long history of rising standards of living. Soon the modern car will have a single pair of wires or glass fiber linking chips .. each controlling or monitoring a function. Subtly, the intelligence of the system will take control from the driver. One day the driver will discover that

the car is really doing the driving. Machines will fly airplanes. Commonplace private planes take off vertically. No longer will roads be necessary to the countryside. Medical services will be met 'by a box downstairs.' A friendly face will appear and ask us our symptoms by name. The 'phantom mentor' will offer advice based on a data bank of the best possible medical and individual patient knowledge.

The human brain is 10 to the fifth power more complex than a computer. At the present rate of progress, we are 25 years away from a machine as complex as the brain, and one that would be enormously faster. Not only will we match the complexity of the brain, but its size as well. Only silicon seems likely to become the foundation of the machine brain. Our android brain may cost more to develop than landing man on the moon or the development of the atom bomb, but it is hugely more significant. Once we have an android brain, we can have as many clones as we like by doing massive file swaps from the original to the copies. Robots should be able to talk at data rates of gigibits per second over large distances. The first machine human brain will be achieved by the year 2,000. By the year 2,020 we will have solved all of the programming problems and by the year 2,040, these machines will be in such large scale use that their intellectual gross product will exceed that of humans by a factor of 100. The coming age of robots should mean a total ending of poverty and an undreamed of level of wealth. Mishandled, it could end the world." (Clive Sinclair is Chairman of British Mensa, the high IQ group.)

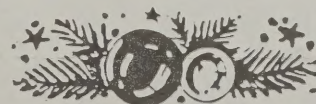
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TALKING WITH YOUR FINGERS  
(Continued from Page1)  
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A really good Packet message was received recently, when a message form Past=President Christine WB2TBA, passed along the news that her surgery, scheduled for November 16th, was not necessary, since the fistula that she was to have had surgery for, had spontaneously resolved itself. We are all so glad for you, Chris.

New problems for a new mode.....our friend Bob Nevins, KF1J, got on packet recently, and found easy access into Norm Sternberg's PBBS, W2JUP. Norm was very helpful in getting Bob up and running. But now KF1J finds Norm's Bulletin Board has established access hours. What has happened is that the W2JUP PBBS, is one of the busiest stations on the East Coast, and Norm has limited hours of access to the bulletin board so that his computer can do its other chores, i.e., the forwarding of messages up and down the Eastern Seaboard. This is a problem that all PBBS's in heavy populated areas (in number of hams) will soon be facing, or is presently facing. But the whole area of Packet radio is still in its infancy, and problems like this will be resolved as time goes on.

If you are on Packet, you are seeing transmissions on your CRT regarding Net/Rom. This is another of the new concepts of the mode, and it needs an article from one of the "experts" in our group on the subject. How about it, guys and gals?

In a recent Packet message, Ira, W3HEF, informed us about operation on FO-12. Seems he's gotten involved in satellite operation, along with all his other involvements in the amateur fraternity. Plans are in the works for satellites to pass packet radio messages in the near future.



Here is the latest list of MARCO packet stations and their bulletin board stations:

STATION	PBBS	FREQUENCY
W3HEF	WA3PXX	0.05
KE0FD	K3PGB	0.01
N13V	W31WI	0.01,05
K2UK	WB2MNF	0.03
WA3TVG	W2X0	0.03
N2GEE	N2MH	0.01
KJ9L	KJ9L	0.01
WB2YBA	WA2SNA	0.01
WB5D	KF5IZ	0.01
N4DR	N4QQ	0.03
KD0YX	W0LHS	0.01
W4FQM	KE4FO	?
WD9GET	KD9HT	?
KF1J	W2JUP	0.01
KB4QGJ	?	?
W2UP	KB3UD	?



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 BLURPS FROM THE EDITOR  
 by wa3tvq  
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Well, it was hoped that by writing the article in the last issue of this Newsletter, asking where a number of MARCO members had disappeared to, that many of the mentioned people would show up on the air. Perhaps they tried, but with the horribly crowded frequency that MARCO had moved to, they gave up on trying. Hope everyone has better luck back on 3.906.

We did hear from a couple of them, even though it wasn't on the air. A note received from our beloved past-president Charlie Jordan, K4IEP, tells us that he has been completely retired for over two years. Charlie reports that his health is good, but wife Bea has osteoporosis and cataracts in both eyes. He sends his kindest regards to all the gang.

Then there was the letter from past-president Jack Carp, KTIV, updating us on his health and welfare. He passes along a new address, 409 Ferncroft Tower, Danvers, MA., 01923-4019, where he and wife Bebe now occupy a condominium, after having sold their home in Saugus. On October 22, Jack had an abdominal aortic aneurysm operated on at Mass Gen. Quoting his letter, "Thank God it was technically a success - but oh what pain - I lost 12 pounds. Seems like Chris Haycock and I have had it!" They will be leaving for Florida in early December, and last winter when they were in the South we often heard Jack operating from there. So let's hope he gets strong enough to get his antenna back up when he gets settled in Florida.

Got a letter from Sister Mary Emmanuel down there in Lufkin, Texas. She wanted to thank MARCO for sending her the Newsletter since she depends almost entirely upon it for news about her friends in MARCO. She sent along a cute poem that I know you will all enjoy:

Just a line to say I'm living,  
 that I'm not amongst the dead,  
 Though I'm getting more forgetful  
 and mixed up in the head.

I've gotten used to arthritis,  
 and to dentures I'm resigned.  
 I can manage my bifocals,  
 but gosh, I miss my mind.

For sometimes I can't remember  
 as I stand at the foot of the stair  
 If I must go up for something,  
 or have just come down from there

And before the fridge so often,  
 my mind is filled with doubt,  
 Have I just put food away,  
 or come to take it out.

And there's times when it is dark,  
 with my nightcap on my head,  
 I don't know if I'm retiring,  
 or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write to you  
 there's no need for getting sore.  
 I may think that I have written,  
 and don't want to be a bore.

So, remember that I love you,  
 and wish that you were near.  
 But now it's nearly mail time,  
 so must say goodbye my dear.

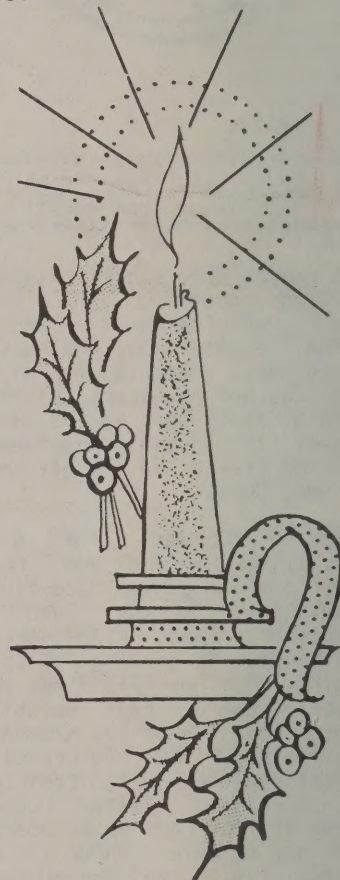
Now I stand before the mail box  
 with my face so very red,  
 Instead of mailing you your letter  
 I have opened it instead.

Ted Figlock, W1HGY, from Taunton Massachusetts, sent to the Newsletter office, reprints of some letters and papers dealing with the battle between the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The material is too lengthy to reprint here, but if anyone desires copies, drop a line to the Newsletter Office, and they will be sent to you. In his letter, Ted also told about his recent trip to Bermuda for the annual Radio Society of Bermuda dinner.

We also received a note from Dr Ruppert, DL0MAR, reporting his first contacts with MARCO members. He worked members Leland Berger, K2HPR, Mike Brooke, N2ØW (formerly WAØVJO), and Dave Maxham, K01E, on

14.308 MHz, with what he described as poor results.

Sorry to report there still has not been anything firm from the people we have been talking to in the Dayton area, regarding a site for the 1988 MARCO convention. When we receive some information, it will be sent to all members as soon as possible. The dates however are firm: April 29, 30, and May 1st, the same three days as the Hamfest.



#### MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES...

Direct all inquiries, and all applications for membership in the MEDICAL AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL, LTD., to the Secretary;

Dr. William L. Sprague, WA6CRN  
 433 North 4th St.,  
 Montebello, CA., 90640

#### MARCO NET SCHEDULE

TIME - UTC	TIME - EST	DAYS	FREQ	NOTES
0200	9:00 P.M.	Mon,Tues,Thur,Fri	3.906	Regular 75 Meter Net, back on old frequency
0400	11:00 P.M.	Sunday	3.906	Late-night 75 Meter Net
1300	8:00 A.M.	Monday	3.929	Breakfast with MARCO
2000	3:00 P.M.	Sunday	14.280	Sunday Afternoon Net, looking for DX members
1515	10:15 A.M.	Sunday	14.308	Medical Grand Rounds of the Air
0200	9:00 P.M.	Sunday & Wednesday	14.280	K6KK & WA3TVG net controls
0200	9:00 P.M.	Sunday & Wednesday	7.239	If 20 meters is dead, look for MARCO here.
0300	10:00 P.M.	Wednesday	3.6065	RTTY Net - W3HEF & N4GXP/8 net controls.
0315	10:15 P.M.	Wednesday	14.110	RTTY moves here if no success on 75 meters
1700	12:00 Noon	Saturday	28.350	Net Control K2TNY: New net: Come on Novices

#### MARCO NET SCHEDULE